

## A LOCAL WISDOM TRANSMISSION PROCESSES AND TACTICS:

### A CASE STUDY OF MUNICIPALITY TAMBONFA-HAM,

### MUANG DISTRICT CHIANG MAI PROVINCE

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#### ABSTRACT

*A Local wisdom transmission processes and tactics aims to study how to convey wisdom and activities that to transmission local wisdom from local expert to the youth in case of Fa-ham Municipality, MuangChiangMai, Thailand. The study is based on interviews and observations local wisdom amount 10 wisdoms including Lana drum (sa-bad chai drumming), Lanna spinning top (bha-khangwo), Lanna dancing arts (fawn), Lanna food (local style food), Banana leaf arts (baisri), Lanna rituals, Lanna toys (made of leftover material), Lanna dessert (local sweet dessert), Lanna games (traditional local games) and Lacal herbs. The study found that the local wisdom transmission process consists of 3 step: preparation, transmission and evaluation. And the transmission tactics used is divided into 2 parts: 1) the transmission way/form are varied into 8 models and 2) the transmission activities are varies into 9 activities. The senior citizen will obviously evaluate and choose appropriate tactics to serve with their youngster in conveying folk wisdom.*

**KEYWORDS:** Local Wisdom, Transmission Processes and Tactics, Chiang Mai

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#### INTRODUCTION

Local wisdom is considered as a cultural story created by community in order to convey the community's meaning and identity, and used as a symbol to build up the bond among people in the community. Local wisdom, thus, is the "mutual property" of people in any group, gender, status and class that is transmitted from the past to the present with effect to the future.

The local wisdom has close bond and lived along human living and society for a long time. It is the community relationship with manifold processes and strategies. Above all, local wisdom has traditional transmission character, with its uniqueness and may not have a fixed form, but has a long lifetime enough to convey the local identity, image and dignity based on its culture arose from associating living knowledge and activities. It, then, reflects local belief, capability and acuity which transferred from generation to generation to apply for resolution, adaptation and living with environment.

In the past, the community which owned prosperous, manifold local wisdoms, that community could be considered to have decent cultural assets that could build up its own identity that bind people ranging from the old to the youth in the community to be together. It is just the same as the case of Bha-KhangWo that is not only functioning as a local toy for entertaining, but also a bond associating the accumulated local knowledge denote the way to take local materials like bamboo or leftover wood to make a toy.

Making a Sa-tuang or a banana leaf art for local rituals and ceremonies by putting local materials like banana trunk, coconut, sticky rice, food and cigarette or Miang (food wrapped up with tea leaf) in to the banana leaf wrapping box for venerating in the ritual also conveys the relationship of man and natural environment on valuing local materials by using them in local activities.

In the present, globalization has caused cultural transfer that focuses on materialism and consumerism that is rapidly gushing in the society. Without the capability of denying modern culture including press and media influence, there has been foreign culture copycat among the youth. They, plus, forget their unique local wisdom that has been transmitted to the generation [1]. If there is no good tactic on local wisdom transmission process, the local wisdom can be eventually faded out. However, there are local wisdom transmitter or local experts who is a very important part of building up and conserving local wisdom. They have searched out various tactics and strategies in the form of Cultural Articulation in the way that “the old ones are not disposed and also keep the new one”. Reconciliation or denying some of the new coming and accept some of them, and audience analysis are the student-centered strategy. It is seen that local wisdom transmission is not staying still but dynamic.

In Fa-Ham, Muang, Chiang Mai, the area has decent cultural cost: there are meetings and grouping of local people to maintain their local wisdom in a concrete way. For instance, the elders club is found by Fa-ham Municipality starting by founding Lanna Arts and Culture Learning Center, SaleePingjaiKaewKwang which is supported by local experts who help on local wisdom transmission and arranging the transmission activities such as conserving local music, including Lanna drum (Klong Sa-bud Chai), and Lanna toy. Besides these parts, the municipality also realizes the significance of wisdom transmission to the youth. They then hold the Grandparents Teaching Grandchildren Project and select beneficial local wisdom to transfer to local youth in their community. Such selected local wisdom are Lanna traditional dancing, banana leaf art, Lanna ritual, Lanna toy, Lanna food, Lanna desserts, Lanna games and herbs. These mentioned local wisdom are transferred to the youth at the Child Development Center, Fa-ham Municipality. The elders would take turn to transmit their knowledge every week in a school semester which shows the community’s strength.

With the above reasons, we, the researchers, are interested in studying the local experts transmission processes and tactics to be the model to strengthen other communities.

## LOCAL WISDOM

Local wisdom is basic knowledge gained from living in balance with nature. It is related to culture in the community which is accumulated and passed on. This wisdom can be both abstract and concrete, but the important characteristics are that it comes from experiences or truth gained from life. The wisdom from real experiences integrates the body, the spirit and the environment. It emphasizes respect for elders and their life experiences. Moreover, it values morals more than material things [2].

Local wisdom is basic knowledge of community that comes from real experience. There are linked and inherited from the past to the present. A key aspect of wisdom is the accumulation of experience, knowledge and tactics which is applying to solve problems and make decisions locally. Local wisdom emphasizes ethics and respect for elders because seniors are more experienced. Therefore it is related to culture and the environment in community [2]. On the study of A Local Wisdom Transmission Processes and Tactics: A Case Study of Municipality Tambon Fa-ham, Muang, Chiang Mai, the sampling group is purposive sampling which is divided into 3 groups:

- **Local Wisdom of Tradition and Ritual** such as Lanna rituals that proceeds following the belief and boost morale of local people, enable them to be able to resolve their life problem and can develop their life quality. For example Sa-tuang making for local rituals.

- **Local Wisdom of Performance**

Lanna dancing art is what we call “Fawn” which is classified to 2 forms; the traditional form and the new making form which still remains local unique of the performance on the beauty of the performance, the local dress and the local music.

- **Lanna Games:** the traditional local games like walking on coconut shell, for instance.
- **Lanna Drum or Sa-Bud Chai Drumming.** It is a type of Lanna performance mostly seen in local parades in events. The drum shows is exciting show with the use of the drummer’s body like elbow, knee and head to hit on the drum too.

#### **Local Wisdom as Local Objects like Equipment, Food or Toys as Follows**

- **Banana leaf art.** It is a handicraft made of parts of banana; the leaf and leaf sheaf can be used as Bai Sri (banana leaf arts containing rice and necessary elements), flowers Krathong or flowers pedestal to be used in rite or ceremony.
- **Local Toys:** the toys made of leftover materials in the local area. It reflects the wisdom, living and culture of the community. They toy made of coconut leaves, for instance.
- **Local Food.** The food is different from food in general and has its own local style which derives from its color, scent, taste and ingredients used in cooking.
- **Lanna Dessert:** the sweet foods cooked by flower, coconut milk and sugar or molasses like Kanom Klue, Krabong, Kanom Wong, for instance.
- **Herbs:** local plants and herbs can be benefit for health and have qualification of medicine. They can be found in local area.
- **Lanna Spinning Top (Bha-Khang-Wo):** a kind of spinning top that makes sound while it is spinning by the wind running through the bamboo space (askew hole). When the bamboo stem is spinning, the wind pressure would make the sound Wo.Wo.

#### **LOCAL WISDOM TRANSMISSION PROCESS**

Local wisdom transmission process means the process of local wisdom transmission of the local experts to the youth. It consists of 3 steps: preparation, transmission and evaluation as following details:

##### **The Process Preparation**

It is the main key principle to select the suitable to transmit the wisdom. The criteria to select the person is as follows: 1) the experience achievement. It is found that most local experts have reached experience of local wisdom through practice and learning process in different ways and allocate the gained knowledge to apply in their living 2) the role of working for the community; they should help on working for local to make faith among local people 3) they have

The time to transfer the wisdom 4) teaching skills that make them be able to find the way to apply for the transmission fluently as a master on the issue, including the skill of analyzing the learners before transmission 5) teacher spirit ; they need to feel pleasant to transmit the wisdom without skimping the knowledge and instruct the learners with mercy so they would walk in the right way 6) good and sufficient local wisdom knowledge and the person have been searching for new more knowledge 7) clear with step and creative communicating skill 8) positive attitude towards local wisdom transmission; the person is glad and proud to get to transfer their wisdom to the youth. Aside the person, the place is also important. The local expert needs to know the learning area well so that he/she would prepare the coherent activity to make a fun and familiar learning ambience.

### **Local Wisdom Transmission Process**

It is the transmission approach selection. The compositions are: 1) the introduction to lead to the content; most local expert would tell about the history/background or the story of the demonstrating objects or equipment to inform on the basic knowledge and its value. During this time, the expert would question the learners so they feel to participate in the activity. 2) the transmission form: the expert choose to transmit the wisdom in different approaches depending on the topic; learning it from the teacher, learning from the seniors or learning from the classmates, learning from doing, self-learning from press and media, learning from the learning source, from documents, contest or competition, for instance. The learning approaches regularly used are learning from the teachers. 3) Teaching materials which is used to transmit the wisdom are varied depending on the topic of the knowledge, natural materials, for example, (eg. coconut leaf, bamboo, banana leaf or local food ingredients), the teacher and learners' bodies in Lanna games learning, and the materials can be mixed with modern media (eg. Cassette tape, the clip of a tv show or the Lanna drum in youtube clip), as well as other teaching materials like to perform or participate in contests on events, Prathart watering rite, Lanna New Year, for instance, also holding contest is a kind of teaching material. 4) The approach (activity) used on the transmission is varied; telling the history or background, demonstrating, lecturing, teaching by doing or trying, including experimenting with tasting. In this approach, there is a questioning time to review what the expert have taught. 5) The teacher's attracting tactics are varied: making faith, motivate the learners, encourage the learners, point out the mistake and punish, implant working moral, participated transmission and student-centered.

### **The Evaluation**

The local expert would mainly observe the learners if they are still interested in the topic or not and would give encouragement and ask the learners to urge their interest from times to time and also estimate the time and change the activity. The learners would start to do or try out followed to the lecture. The teachers' assistants would add other entertaining activities during the waiting time to maintain the youth's interest, for example Lanna food and dessert cooking course that, sometime, takes long time. The learners are evaluated from their will to practice and when they have questions.

## **THE TRANSMISSION APPROACH**

The transmission approach used is divided into 2 parts: 1) the transmission way/form, consists of learning from teachers, learning from seniors, learning from classmates, learning from doing, self-learning from media, learning from learning sources, learning from documents and learning from participating in contest/competition, and 2) the transmission activities consists of history telling, demonstrating and lecturing, practice/do it, using materials on learning, trying out, questioning to review the teaching, instructing on the used materials/objects in the show and playing games.

The activities and approach of learning in each topic can be summarized as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> table.

**Table 1: Local Wisdom Transmission Approach**

Sl. No.	Local Wisdom	Local Wisdom Transmission Approach									
		from experts	from documents	from primary school	from secondary school	from local people	from other sources	from other sources	from other sources	from other sources	from other sources
1.	Lanna drum (Sa-Bad Chai drum)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
2.	Lanna Spinning top (BhaKhangWo)	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
3.	Lanna dancing arts	✓			✓						
4.	Lanna food	✓		✓	✓						
5.	Banana leaf arts	✓			✓						
6.	Lanna rite	✓									
7.	Lanna Toys	✓		✓	✓						
8.	Lanna dessert	✓		✓	✓						
9.	Lanna games	✓			✓						
10.	Local herbs	✓		✓							

**Table 2: Local Wisdom Transmission Activities**

Sl. No.	Local Wisdom	Local Wisdom Activities								
		Story Telling	Demonstration and Lecturing	Learning by Doing	Teaching Materials	Trying out, Tasting, Smelling	Questioning to Review and Test the Lesson	Instruction on the Objects and Materials used.	Performance	Games
1.	Lanna drum (Sa-Bad Chai drum)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
2.	Lanna spinning top (BhaKhangWo)	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
3.	Lanna dancing arts	✓	✓	✓	✓					
4.	Lanna food	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
5.	Banana leaf arts	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
6.	Lanna rite	✓					✓	✓		
7.	Lanna Toys	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
8.	Lanna dessert	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
9.	Lanna games	✓	✓	✓						✓
10.	Local herbs	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

From the table 1, the approach used the most is learning from teachers and the one that has never been used at all is learning from documents as the local wisdom mainly depends on the experts. If the wisdom of the experts are not transformed into documents form, the tendency of the wisdom extinction is high as the wisdom could be gone with the expert. From the study, it is observed that the target of Lanna drum and the spinning top transmission is the youth who are still in primary and secondary school. The experts can use various approaches to transmit the knowledge. For the rest 8 wisdom, the targets are young students in kindergarten level. Accordingly, there is limitation of the wisdom transmission. The experts, thus, choose only 2-3 approaches so the learners can access the knowledge. However, the activities used are more diverse. According to table 2, most local people and the experts can get to choose 6 activities of the wisdom transmissions. On the top 3 activity used the most are storytelling, demonstration and lecture and learning by doing.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- The wisdom should be transfer into document or other media form so that people who are interested in it could learn from the documents by themselves as well.
- The wisdom transmit to the young students should be transfer to the older students to find the most appropriate way of teaching for them.

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